

ISAC Meeting – May 2014

DECISION ITEM

SPONSORING ISAC MEMBER

Dr. Joseph DiTomaso

PRESENTER'S NAMES/AFFILIATIONS:

**Dr. Joseph DiTomaso U.C. Davis with Mike Ielmini,
USDA Forest Service**

TOPIC:

**ISAC Input for USDA Forest Service's Consideration
When They Write Their Forest Service Handbook on
Invasive Species.**

1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

The Forest Service Directive System consists of two groups of documents: 1, the Forest Service Manual, and 2, a set of Handbooks. The Forest Service Handbooks are the principal source of instructions to National Forest System Managers for carrying out the direction issued in the Forest Service Manual.

The Forest Service asked ISAC to provide the technical-scientific foundations and recommendations for them to consider when they develop their Forest Service Handbook. The Control and Management Subcommittee of ISAC is Chaired by Dr. Joseph DiTomaso of U.C. Davis. His Subcommittee took on this task and has been working on it during the interruptions in ISAC's normal meeting schedule. These attached materials and all the collected all the comments have been reviewed by the members of the ISAC Control and Management Subcommittee.

The materials and comments will be discussed during the Control and Management Subcommittee session within the May 2014 ISAC meeting. In addition, a public comment period will be open before this comes before the full ISAC vote.

Please note - The Forest Service has the responsibility to write their Handbook. These documents are not the final Handbook. If endorsed by ISAC these documents together with the comment received will be evaluated by the USDA as **they** write their Handbook. Once drafted by the Forest Service, their Handbook will go through a full Federal Register Notice and public comment period as did the Forest Service Manual.

2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC? The U.S. Forest Service has extensive responsibilities for the management of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. This input from ISAC on their Handbook will be carefully reviewed and evaluated by the Forest Service when they write their Handbook. Once completed, the Forest Service Invasive Species Handbook will guide their actions on the National Forest Lands. However, it will also inform Forest Service partners including: international governments, other federal land management agencies, tribal governments, state and local governments, conservation organizations, and private sector land owners.

3. HOW DOES THIS ITEM RELATE TO THE 2008 – 2012 NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN? Executive Order 13112 (EO 13112) created the NISC to coordinate interdepartmental invasive species efforts. A clear set of scientifically-grounded instructions to people working directly to prevent and control invasive species is critical to effective departmental work and to interdepartmental coordination. This work addresses several areas of the 2008-2012 Plan, but primarily it addresses Strategic Goal 5: Maximize organizational effectiveness and collaboration on invasive species issues among international, federal, state, local and tribal governments, private organizations and individuals.

4. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM: The USDA Policy Liaison and USDA Forest Service representatives have made presentations at ISAC meetings concerning the USDA invasive species programs and the Forest Service Manual and Handbooks. The Forest Service Manual has been through a full Federal Register public notice and public review process, see: http://www.invasivespecies.gov/global/ISAC/ISAC_Minutes/2011/Tab8/FR_Vol._76%20No.%20233.pdf

5. ACTION REQUESTED OF ISAC: Vote on the following recommendations:

- 1, ISAC endorses the process that produced this information and recommends at the USDA Forest Service evaluate this information and all the comments received and incorporate it into their Forest Service Handbook wherever appropriate.
- 2, ISAC recommends that all NISC members' agencies and bureaus carefully evaluate the content of these documents and use it to guide their work and coordinate their efforts with USDA Forest Service wherever possible.

6. ALTERNATIVES:

- 1, ISAC returns this to the Subcommittee on Control and Management for further development.
- 2, ISAC does NOT endorse the process or this information and recommends no further action by ISAC on this issue.

7. ATTACHMENTS: